

Testimony for Public Hearing
Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2021

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Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

OPPOSE: Raised H.B. 6355 - AN ACT CONCERNING RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS

This bill would essentially allow the State to permanently confiscate a person's firearms and ammunition, based upon a one-sided statement by nearly anyone that has or had any relationship, at any point, with the respondent.

American jurisprudence is based on the presumption of innocence. However, the respondent would be considered guilty until they PROVE their innocence. Otherwise, the respondent would never regain their rights or their property, EVER. This is an impossible standard as it would require proving a negative. This is such an absurd and illogical concept that I implore this committee to oppose the bill.

SUPPORT: Raised H.B. 6491 - AN ACT CONCERNING NONLETHAL ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPONS

A Citizen should have the right to possess and carry a nonlethal means of self-defense in their car and on their person. The process to obtain a permit to carry a firearm for self-defense is so lengthy and expensive in this state that it puts the means of self protection out of reach for many people. Having a nonlethal option makes sense for those who have an immediate need to protect themselves and those who choose not to carry a firearm due to personal objections or because the law otherwise prohibits the carrying of a firearm.

This bill would NOT make it legal for a person to use or carry an "electronic defense weapon" for the purpose of assaulting another person. That remains illegal, despite the implement being used – see (CGS § 53a-3(7)). From OLR 95-R-0757: "Dangerous instrument" is defined as any instrument, article or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a vehicle.

Respectfully,

Kurt Weisheit